

SPORTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2022 | kenoshanews.com | SECTION C

WIAA SECTIONAL BASEBALL



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Central baseball team poses with its WIAA Division 1 sectional championship trophy Tuesday after beating Franklin 5-4 in the sectional final at Bradford's Wavro Field. The Falcons became the sixth straight Southern Lakes Conference team to win the sectional and advance to state.

The comeback kids

Westosha Central advances to first state tournament since 2002

MIKE RAMCZYK
KENOSHA NEWS CORRESPONDENT

The comeback kids did it again. This time, it meant overcoming a 4-0 deficit thanks largely to a ball lost in the sun.

But when freak plays or unfortunate follies didn't malign Adam Switalski and the Westosha Central Falcons, they proved they're the best WIAA Division 1 baseball team in southeastern Wisconsin. The Falcons defeated Franklin 5-4 in a sectional championship Tuesday at Kenosha Bradford High School.

Switalski dazzled with 5²/₃ strong innings pitching, and his two-out, two-run single in a four-run fourth sent Westosha to its first state tournament since 2002.

The funny thing about that team 20 years ago is that Jeremy McGinn and the boys won it all.

Now, Jeremy's brother Nick, another Falcon baseball legend, and head coach Jacob Morman's bunch become the sixth consecutive Southern Lakes Conference squad to make it to state.

The two comeback wins in a matter of three hours is nothing new.

"It feels great, I love the competition," said Seth Brankey, who earned the victory pitching in the first game Tuesday then earned the save in the nightcap. "Coming from down 4-0 to win is big. A lot of adversity today."

Switalski, who will pitch for Indiana University next season, was emotional moments after the sectional final.

He was prepared during his game-winning at-bat.

"I've faced him before and I



MIKE RAMCZYK, KENOSHA NEWS CORRESPONDENT

Westosha Central senior shortstop Jack Rose, left, and head coach Jacob Morman celebrate after rallying to defeat Franklin 5-4 in a WIAA Division 1 sectional championship game Tuesday at Kenosha Bradford.

knew he was going to throw a fastball first pitch, he did, and I put a good swing on it."

"I'm really proud of this team, someone tweeted out 'NO QUIT' about our team in game one, and it's so true."

Morman said the team is gritty, and he knew the guys had the capability to come back from such a large hole.

He said guys continued to have key, quality at-bats when they could've hung their heads.

"It's fitting, because we've been doing it all season," Morman said about their sixth comeback victory of the season.

"Two in one day. This team believes they're always in a game, and they chipped away. It's a special group of guys."

Morman added Tuesday's sectional final was the best pitching performance of the season from Switalski, the staff ace.

"Phenomenal today," Mor-

man said. "He was dialed in. You could see the competitive fire in his eyes. This was the best he's pitched. He wanted the spotlight and did exactly what an ace is supposed to do."

Westosha will wait to see who and what time the Falcons will play in the state tournament, which opens Tuesday and lasts through Thursday at Fox Cities Stadium in Appleton, the home of the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers.

Morman feels confident the guys can keep their momentum going.

"Every guy on this team has a role, and when you're called upon, you do your job," he said. "We'll see, we just have to keep playing good baseball."

"The character of the group makes me think we can win. They don't quit, they're tight-knit, they do it for each other. Jack Rose could be up playing D1 basketball right now, but he's

here because this means something to him. They've been special all year in terms of character, and that's what separates this team from other teams."

Westosha Central 2, Oak Creek 1 (9 innings)

Nick Argersinger hit a walk-off game-winner to score Keegan Kearby only a few minutes after throwing out a runner at home plate to preserve a one-run deficit in Tuesday's sectional semifinal against Oak Creek.

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WATCH: To see the game-winning hit by Central to win against Oak Creek in the WIAA Division 1 sectional semifinals, scan this QR code with your smartphone and follow the link [NEWSVU](#)

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS GOLF

Central's Bruni not as sharp on 2nd day

Junior struggles with an 86 at state tournament after carding a first-round 78

LEE NEWSPAPERS SPORTS STAFF

Central High School junior Dylan Bruni had a day Tuesday at the WIAA State Boys Golf Championships he may want to put in the rear-view mirror.

Bruni, who shot a 78 on the first day of the tournament and was tied for 23rd, struggled on the second day of the tournament, right from the start, and shot an 86 to total 164 and move down in the final Division 1 individual standings at Blackwolf Run in Kohler.



Bruni

Bruni, who started his round Tuesday on the first hole, had a double bogey 6 on the 349-yard, par-4 first hole and followed with a triple bogey 7 on the 375-yard, par-4 second hole to go to 5-over. He pulled his game together for the rest of the front nine with six pars and one birdie, on the 362-yard, par-4 fifth hole, and was at 40 after nine holes.

The back nine was more of a nightmare for Bruni. After a par on the 330-yard, par-4 10th hole and a bogey on the 522-yard, par-5 11th, he had three straight double bogeys, on holes 12 through 14, and shot a 46 on the back nine to finish eight shots worse than Monday and dropping him 33 places into a tie for 56th.

Will Schlitz of Eau Claire Memorial shot a 3-under-par 69 in the second round, including a 32 on the front nine that featured five birdies, to pass 13 players and win the individual

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LOCAL COLLEGES

Parkside mourns passing of Dannehl

UW-PARKSIDE

KENOSHA — The Parkside Athletics community is saddened by the loss of former Director of Athletics and Parkside Athletics Hall of Fame member, Wayne Dannehl. Dannehl passed away on June 3, 2022 at the age of 85.

"Our thoughts are with Wayne's family and friends and the countless Parkside alumni and supporters that are mourning his loss," said Andrew Gavin, Director of Athletics. "Wayne set a standard for progress and impactful leadership for Parkside Athletics, a legacy that we try to carry on today in support of our student-athletes and coaches."

Dannehl served as Parkside's athletic director and Physical Education Department chair from 1972-1990. He played an instrumental role in the growth of strong intercollegiate athletic programs for both men and women. Along with Parkside, he was very active in the NAIA.



Dannehl

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WIAA DIVISION 3 BASEBALL

Kenosha St. Joseph baseball advances to state tournament with back-to-back sectional wins

TRAVIS DEVLIN
Lee Newspapers

A two-run seventh inning rally by the Kenosha St. Joseph High School baseball team led to a 12-11 victory over Brookfield Academy in the first of two WIAA Division 3 sectional games on Tuesday at Chilton.

The Lancers needed one more win to seal their fate as sectional champions and to secure a repeat trip to the state tournament and that is exactly what they did in the second game against Chilton, defeating the Tigers 8-2.

St. Joseph, which improved to 20-2, is the defending Division 3 state champion in the State Tournament, which will be played Tuesday, June 14 through Thursday, Jan. 16 at Fox Cities Stadium in Grand Chute.

Game 1: St. Joseph 12, Brookfield Academy 11.

In the first game, Brookfield Academy (16-9) got out to 3-0 lead in the top of the first

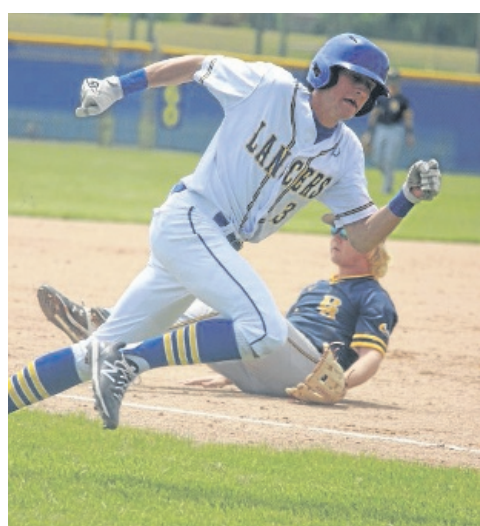
inning, but the Lancers followed up with two runs in the bottom half of the inning and head into the second only down one at 3-2.

Blue Knights' senior Nolan Kahle added two more runs for his team in the third on a two-run single to right field to stretch their lead to 5-2. Once again, however, St. Joseph battled back, which was the theme of the first game.

After beginning the bottom half the third with two quick strikeouts, the Lancers rallied again. Senior Jacob Ashmus hit a double, junior Brady Davidson drove him in on an RBI double and following a hit by pitch, junior Luke Schuler tied the game at 5-5 with a two-run single.

Brookfield Academy stretched its lead to 10-5 with a five-run fifth inning, but it was short lived.

Lancers senior Andrew Setter got the first run across on a sacrifice fly and sophomore Tommy Santarelli notched an RBI single in



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Eric Kenesie rounds for home to score for St. Joseph Tuesday in a 12-11 victory over Brookfield Academy Tuesday in a WIAA Division 3 sectional semifinal in Chilton.

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Baseball

From C1

the next at-bat. After another sacrifice fly off the bat of junior Jack McTernan brought in the third run, senior Matt Schulte hit a line-drive home run over the left field fence to tie the game again at 10-10.

Brookfield Academy took a one-run lead of 11-10 in top of the sixth on an error. But the game clearly proved no lead was safe until the final at-bat.

After a scoreless top of the seventh, Santarelli and McTernan were both hit by pitches to start the bottom half of the seventh for St. Joseph, which put the winning runs on base. Sophomore Eric Kenesie walked to load the bases with just one out.

Ashmus grounded into a fielder's choice to tie the game at 11-11. With the bases loaded, two outs and freshman Peter Visconti at-bat, a wild pitch got past the catcher, allowing Schulte to score the game-winning run and put the Lancers in the sectional championship game.

St. Joseph finished the game with 10 hits to 11 for the Blue Knights. Davidson finished 2 for 4 with one RBI and two runs scored; Schulte went 1 for 3 with two RBIs and two runs scored; Schuler and Ashmus each finished 2 for 4 with one RBI; Santarelli went 1 for 1 with one RBI; Setter and McTernan each had one RBI and Kenesie had two hits.

Schuler started on the mound for the Lancers, going four innings and allowing six runs (two earned) on seven hits, three walks and five strikeouts. Setter pitched the final three innings, allowing five (four earned) runs on four hits with two walks.

Game 2: St. Joseph 8, Chilton 2.

The Lancers got out to an early lead over Chilton (19-5) in the second game and never looked back. Kenesie led the game off the game with a double. A couple batters later, Davidson reached base on an error that allowed Kenesie to cross home plate to take a 1-0 advantage.

In the third, Kenesie picked up right where he left off to begin the game, leading off the inning with a single. Davidson hit an RBI double to bring him home while advanc-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Andrew Setter closes out St. Joseph's 12-11 WIAA Division 3 sectional semifinal victory over Brookfield Academy Tuesday in Chilton,

ing to third on the throw. Visconti followed that with a sacrifice fly to center to make it a 3-0 ballgame.

Schuler reached base after being hit by a pitch to lead off the fourth. Sophomore Dylan Love, who didn't play in the first game, lined a double to center field to put runners at second and third with no outs. McTernan was able to capitalize, hitting a two-run single to center field to stretch the St. Joseph lead to 5-0. A few batters later, Ashmus hit a line drive to center, scoring two more runs before the inning finally ended.

The Lancers' eighth and final run of the game came in the top of the fifth on a solo home run over

the left field fence by Visconti.

The pitching for the Lancers in the second game was dominant from start to finish. Setter pitched four innings, allowing just three hits and striking out four. Schulte came in the fifth and shut the door with a comfortable lead in the final three innings, allowing two runs on four hits, three walks and five strikeouts.

The Lancers reached double digits in hits for the second straight game with 10. Kenesie went 3 for 4 to lead his team in hits. Ashmus went 1 for 4 with two RBIs, Visconti had one hit with two RBIs and McTernan and Davidson each had one hit with two RBIs. Schuler and Love each had one hit.

Central

From C1

After Kearby dominated on the mound for seven innings, the Knights got on the board with a hit in the ninth to go up 1-0.

The next batter singled to center, and another runner was bound to score, but a cannon on Argersinger's left arm zipped a perfect two-hopper to home plate to end the inning.

Chase Kerkman led off the Falcons' ninth with a walk, but things looked bleak after two quick outs.

That's when Kearby delivered with two outs and Kerkman on second to tie things at 1-1.

The left-handed senior sliced a ball just shy of a diving left-fielder, and he later stole second to set the stage for Argersinger.

"I got another opportunity to hit a game-winner, and I got a hard, straight fastball after seven or eight pitches," Argersinger said of his winning hit.

"I still have goosebumps."

As for his season-saving outfield assist, Argersinger saw it and was ready to fire.

"I saw it and once it got through

the infield, I said I was going to grab it and chuck it as hard as I can. I fell over, I threw it so hard."

Morman said he feels so confident because his pitching staff pumped strikes all day long, including Kearby and Brankey, who returned after an injury kept him out for a month.

"Great baseball game, this is exactly what you want," he said. "Phenomenal play from center field from Nick, to keep it to one run. Kearby is the heartbeat of our team. Having him back in the lineup has given us such a tremendous boost."

"Brankey, too, has been out with a dislocated shoulder. He is back in his first game after only two practices. We knew this was going to be tough, Oak Creek has a great program. It's an emotional game, you wear your emotions on your sleeve sometimes, but I have nothing but respect for Oak Creek."

Morman referred to an exchange between himself and Oak Creek's coach late in the game where things got heated.

Umpires had to calm down both men, who exchanged words over a call the Central coaches believe the umpires missed.



MIKE RAMCZYK, FOR THE KENOSHA NEWS

Members of the Westosha Central baseball team celebrate after advancing to the program's first state tournament since 2002 Tuesday afternoon at Kenosha Bradford.



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